



# The Neutron Scattering Society of America

www.neutronsattering.org

March 18, 2015

Dr. Kurt F. Schoenberg  
LASNCE User Facility Director  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Dr. Schoenberg:

I write to you on behalf of the Neutron Scattering Society of America (NSSA) and the greater user community of neutron scattering techniques at the Lujan Center in particular, to urge Los Alamos National Laboratory to ensure a continuing operation of its unique capabilities at the Lujan Center for scientific research in materials science, and I would like to offer the support of NSSA in helping to transition the Lujan Center from a BES user facility to its new form of operation.

For your reference, the NSSA, with over 1300 active members, represents a broad constituency of soft and hard matter scientists and engineers who rely upon neutron scattering techniques in their research programs. A complete shutdown of neutron scattering operations at the Lujan Center, following the termination of support from the DOE, Basic Energy Sciences, would have serious consequences for the U.S. scientific community in general, as well as for research at Los Alamos, both for basic and applied scientific programs as well as for National Security programs. We therefore urge you to make every effort to preserve the operation of one of North America's most productive and cost effective scientific facilities serving our community.

The Lujan Center is an essential part of the neutron scattering measurement infrastructure in North America, which for well over a decade has provided users from science, industry, and from within LANL, with unique capabilities for scientific research in materials science, condensed matter science, biology, and nuclear science and technology. In addition to its distinguished record of innovation and contribution to our nation's neutron scattering capability, the Lujan Center also has a significant record of accomplishment in executing research of importance to US national security, has played a vital role in bringing cutting-edge science and talented scientists to the Mesa, and has a long history of training new users in the United States. A loss of the Lujan center would be detrimental to ability of LANL to recruit, educate, and train world leading instrument scientists in neutron methods.

We cannot overemphasize the importance of the Lujan Center for providing unique neutron capabilities to a wide variety of users from academia, industry, national labs, and the NNSA. Given the extreme shortage of neutron facilities in the United States, it is essential to the competitiveness of our scientific, industrial, and national security community that the Lujan Center continues to operate a neutron scattering operation open to outside users. The Neutron Scattering Society of America therefore wishes to help Los Alamos National Laboratory in defining new ways to fund and operate a neutron user program at Los Alamos in any ways we can and we look forward for future participation of our members in LANSCE-based research

Sincerely,

Stephan Rosenkranz

President, Neutron Scattering Society of America

**President:**

*Stephan Rosenkranz*  
Argonne National Laboratory  
(312) 912-2181  
srosenkranz@gmail.com

**Vice-President:**

*Patrick Woodward*  
Ohio State University  
(614) 688-8274  
woodward@chemistry.ohio-state.edu

**Secretary:**

*Katherine Page*  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
(505) 695-1536  
pagekl@ornl.gov

**Treasurer:**

*Michael Crawford*  
DuPont Central Research and Development  
(302) 695-3045  
Michael.k.crawford@usa.dupont.com

**Membership Secretary:**

*Ronald Jones*  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
(301) 975-4626  
ronald.jones@nist.gov

**Communications Secretary:**

*Mark Lumsden*  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
(865) 241-0090  
lumsdenmd@ornl.gov

**Members at Large:**

*Tonya Kuhl*  
University of California Davis  
(530) 754 5911  
tlkuhl@ucdavis.edu

*Christopher Wiebe*  
Department of Chemistry  
The University of Winnipeg  
(204) 786 9487  
ch.wiebe@uwinnipeg.ca

*Norman J. Wagner*  
University of Delaware  
(302) 831-8079  
wagnernj@udel.edu